Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Domestic violence has a profound and devastating effect on individuals, families, and communities in America; and,

Whereas, Each year 1,500,000 women and 825,000 men in the United States are physically assaulted by an intimate partner; and,

Whereas, Among women who report having been physically assaulted or stalked since they were 18 years old, 60 percent were victimized by a husband, co-habiting partner, a boyfriend, or a date; and,

Whereas, More than 500,000 women have injuries requiring medical treatment each year that were inflicted upon them by intimate partners; and,

Whereas, The direct costs of medical treatment for battered women annually are estimated at $1.8 billion; and,

Whereas, Since 1976, intimate partners have been responsible for 30 percent of all the female homicides recorded annually; and,

Whereas, Children under the age of 12 resided in 43 percent of the households in which domestic violence was reported between 1993 and 1998; and,

Whereas, During 2002, nonprofit victim service agencies reported 9,331 victims of domestic violence in South Dakota, and it is for all these reasons that we need to honor victims of domestic violence and those who serve them during the month of October and throughout the year:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2003, as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of domestic violence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State